

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving at an Identity System a request for a first certificate related action for a first user wherein the first certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action; and
retrieving by the Identity System a first workflow for responding to said request from a plurality of workflows for responding to requests for certificate related actions, wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user, wherein the first workflow contains a first set of directives and a second workflow in said plurality of workflows contains a second set of directives, wherein said first set of directives is different from said second set of directives, wherein said first workflow calls for obtaining an approval from an entity associated with the first user and identified in a user profile for the first user maintained by the Identity System before performing a certificate related action, wherein said second workflow does not call for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action, wherein said first workflow for responding to said request corresponds to said first certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said first user from the identity profile for the first user, the set of characteristics for the first user including a user type for the first user, and wherein retrieving the first workflow further comprises selecting the first workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the first certificate related action and the user type of the first user.

2.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving said plurality of workflows.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
performing said first workflow, wherein performing said first workflow
comprises:

retrieving an approval response from the entity associated with the first
user; and

obtaining a certificate.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user
wherein the second certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate
enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action;

retrieving the second workflow for responding to said second request from said
plurality of workflows, wherein said second workflow corresponds to said second certificate
related action and a set of characteristics for said second user from an identity profile for the
second user maintained by the Identity System, the set of characteristics including a user type for
the second user, and wherein retrieving the second workflow further comprises selecting the
second workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the second certificate related action
and the user type of the second user; and

performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow
comprises:

obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said first
certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and said second certificate related
action is a certificate enrollment action.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate renewal action and said second certificate related action is a certificate renewal action.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:
obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises
 authenticating said first user;
 forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server;
 receiving said certificate; and
 storing said certificate.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate renewal action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:
obtaining a certificate renewal, wherein obtaining the certificate renewal comprises:
 authenticating said first user;
 forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server;
 receiving a certificate renewal acknowledgement.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate revocation action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:
revoking a certificate, wherein revoking the certificate comprises:
 authenticating said first user; and
 forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) One or more processor readable storage devices having processor readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising:

receiving at an Identity System a request for a first certificate related action for a first user wherein the first certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action; and

retrieving by the Identity System a first workflow for responding to said request from a plurality of workflows for responding to requests for certificate related actions, wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user, wherein the first workflow contains a first set of directives and a second workflow in said plurality of workflows contains a second set of directives, wherein said first set of directives is different from said second set of directives, wherein said first workflow calls for obtaining an approval from an entity associated with the first user and identified in a user profile for the first user maintained by the Identity System before performing a certificate related action, wherein said second workflow does not call for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action, wherein said first workflow for responding to said request corresponds to said first certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said first user from the identity profile for the first user, the set of characteristics for the first user including a user type for the first user, and wherein retrieving the first workflow further comprises selecting the first workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the first certificate related action and the user type of the first user.

17.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving said plurality of workflows.

21. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said first workflow, wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

retrieving an approval response from the entity associated with the first user; and

obtaining a certificate;

receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user wherein the second certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action;

retrieving the second workflow for responding to said second request from said plurality of workflows, wherein said second workflow corresponds to said second certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said second user from an identity profile for the second user maintained by the Identity System, the set of characteristics including a user type for the second user, and wherein retrieving the second workflow further comprises selecting the second workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the second certificate related action and the user type of the second user; and

performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises:

obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

22. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 21, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and said second certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action.

23. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises:
 authenticating said first user;
 forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server;
 receiving said certificate; and
 storing said certificate.

24. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

 performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate renewal action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

 obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises
 authenticating said first user;
 forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server; and
 receiving a certificate renewal acknowledgement.

25. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises:

 performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate revocation action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

 revoking a certificate, wherein revoking the certificate comprises:
 authenticating said first user; and
 forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

 one or more communications interfaces;
 one or more storage devices; and

one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said one or more communication interfaces, said one or more processors perform a method comprising:

receiving at an Identity System a request for a first certificate related action for a first user wherein the first certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action; and

retrieving by the Identity System a first workflow for responding to said request from a plurality of workflows for responding to requests for certificate related actions, wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user, wherein the first workflow contains a first set of directives and a second workflow in said plurality of workflows contains a second set of directives, wherein said first set of directives is different from said second set of directives, wherein said first workflow calls for obtaining an approval from an entity associated with the first user and identified in a user profile for the first user maintained by the Identity System before performing a certificate related action, wherein said second workflow does not call for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action, wherein said first workflow for responding to said request corresponds to said first certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said first user from the identity profile for the first user, the set of characteristics for the first user including a user type for the first user, and wherein retrieving the first workflow further comprises selecting the first workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the first certificate related action and the user type of the first user.

28.-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving said plurality of workflows.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said first workflow, wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

retrieving an approval response from the entity associated with the first user; and

obtaining a certificate;

receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user wherein the second certificate related action is selected from a group consisting of a certificate enrollment action, a certificate renewal action, and a certificate revocation action;

retrieving the second workflow for responding to said second request from said plurality of workflows, wherein said second workflow corresponds to said second certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said second user from an identity profile for the second user maintained by the Identity System, the set of characteristics including a user type for the second user, and wherein retrieving the second workflow further comprises selecting the second workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the second certificate related action and the user type of the second user; and

performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises:

obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and said second certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate enrollment action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises:
 authenticating said first user;
 forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server;
 receiving said certificate; and
 storing said certificate.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

 performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate renewal action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

 obtaining a certificate, wherein obtaining the certificate comprises:
 authenticating said first user;
 forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server; and
 receiving a certificate renewal acknowledgement.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

 performing said first workflow, wherein said first certificate related action is a certificate revocation action and wherein performing said first workflow comprises:

 revoking a certificate, wherein revoking the certificate comprises:
 authenticating said first user; and
 forwarding said request to a Certificate Processing Server.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

 receiving a first request for a first certificate related action for a first user;
 retrieving a first workflow for responding to said first request from a plurality of workflows,

wherein said first workflow corresponds to said first certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said first user,

wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user,

wherein said first workflow calls for obtaining an approval from an entity associated with the first user before performing a certificate related action,

wherein a second workflow of the plurality of workflows does not call for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action, and

wherein retrieving the first workflow for responding to said first request further comprises selecting the first workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the first certificate related action and a user type of the first user;

performing said first workflow, wherein performing said first workflow comprises retrieving an approval response from the entity associated with the first user and obtaining a certificate;

receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user;

retrieving a second workflow for responding to said second request from said plurality of workflows, wherein said second workflow corresponds to said second certificate related action and a user type of said second user; and

performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:
receiving said plurality of workflows.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein said first certificate related action and said second certificate related action call for the same certificate related action.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein receiving the first request, retrieving the first workflow, performing the first workflow, receiving the second request, retrieving the second workflow, and performing the second workflow are performed by an Identity System in communication with an Access System.

43. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices having processor readable code embodied on said processor readable storage devices, said processor readable code for programming one or more processors to perform a method comprising:

- receiving a first request for a first certificate related action for a first user;
- retrieving a first workflow for responding to said first request from a plurality of

workflows,

- wherein said first workflow corresponds to said first certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said first user,

- wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user,

- wherein said first workflow calls for obtaining an approval from an entity associated with the first user before performing a certificate related action,

- wherein a second workflow of the plurality of workflows does not call for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action, and

- wherein retrieving the first workflow for responding to said first request further comprises selecting the first workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the first certificate related action and a user type of the first user;

- performing said first workflow, wherein performing said first workflow comprises retrieving an approval response from the entity associated with the first user and obtaining a certificate;

- receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user;

retrieving a second workflow for responding to said second request from said plurality of workflows, wherein said second workflow corresponds to said second certificate related action and a user type of said second user; and

performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

44. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 43, wherein said method further comprises:
receiving said plurality of workflows.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 43, wherein said first certificate related action and said second certificate related action call for the same certificate related action.

47. (Previously Presented) One or more processor readable storage devices according to claim 43, wherein receiving the first request, retrieving the first workflow, performing the first workflow, receiving the second request, retrieving the second workflow, and performing the second workflow are performed by an Identity System in communication with an Access System.

48. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
one or more communications interfaces;
one or more storage devices; and
one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said one or more communication interfaces, said one or more processors perform a method comprising:

receiving a first request for a first certificate related action for a first user;

retrieving a first workflow for responding to said first request from a plurality of workflows,

wherein said first workflow corresponds to said first certificate related action and a set of characteristics for said first user,

wherein each workflow in said plurality of workflows corresponds to a different set of characteristics for a user,

wherein said first workflow calls for obtaining an approval from an entity associated with the first user before performing a certificate related action,

wherein a second workflow of the plurality of workflows does not call for obtaining an approval before performing a certificate related action, and

wherein retrieving the first workflow for responding to said first request further comprises selecting the first workflow from the plurality of workflows based on the first certificate related action and a user type of the first user;

performing said first workflow, wherein performing said first workflow comprises retrieving an approval response from the entity associated with the first user and obtaining a certificate;

receiving a second request for a second certificate related action for a second user;

retrieving a second workflow for responding to said second request from said plurality of workflows, wherein said second workflow corresponds to said second certificate related action and a user type of said second user; and

performing said second workflow, wherein performing said second workflow comprises obtaining a second certificate without retrieving an approval response.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving said plurality of workflows.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein said first certificate related action and said second certificate related action call for the same certificate related action.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein receiving the first request, retrieving the first workflow, performing the first workflow, receiving the second request, retrieving the second workflow, and performing the second workflow are performed by an Identity System in communication with an Access System.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein obtaining an approval response comprises applying a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) filter to attributes of the identity profile for the first user.